

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an exhaust emission control apparatus having an NOx catalyst disposed on an exhaust passage of an internal combustion engine, the present invention is intended to suppress deterioration in exhaust emissions when the temperature of the NOx catalyst is raised. In case where the temperature of the NOx catalyst need be raised, an amount of nitrogen oxides occluded in the NOx catalyst is decreased in advance to the raising of the temperature of the NOx catalyst, whereby the amount of nitrogen oxides to be discharged from the NOx catalyst upon raising the temperature of the NOx catalyst can be decreased.